

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER IV
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER V

Class No. 003913
Class No. 003914

DEFINITION:

To prepare a variety of difficult and complex cases before Superior and Appellate courts; to train and advise staff attorneys with the respect to changes in legal concepts, trial procedures, and techniques; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Deputy Public Defenders are attorneys that provide legal services to clients entitled to a public defender. All positions in this series are allocated only to the Public Defender's Office.

Deputy Public Defender IV: Positions in this class prepare and defend the most difficult, felony cases involving characteristics such as multiple defendants, serious charges such as homicide, rape, aggravated assault, complex or unique legal issues, and represents children in complex dependency matters. Positions in this class may supervise, or assist in the supervision of, attorneys and support staff.

Deputy Public Defender V: This class is the highest level of defense attorneys in the Classified Service and is distinguished from the next lower level, Deputy Public Defender IV, by its supervisory and administrative responsibilities.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Prepares and defends difficult and complex court and jury cases in Superior Court; reviews evidence, interrogates witnesses, and investigates the scene of the crime; instructs investigators in obtaining evidence in defense of the case; prepares defense briefs; checks questions of law; anticipates legal reasoning of prosecuting attorneys; argues points of law; makes final arguments and summations in defense of the accused; gives advice to less experienced attorneys in matters pertaining to complex legal issues, policies, or tactics; performs legal research in related fields such as psychiatry, criminalistics, sentencing, and constitutional law; negotiates settlement of cases with prosecuting attorneys prior to or during trial; represents children in complex dependency matters; supervises and assigns work to deputies of a functional section of the Public Defender's Office; discusses cases and related problems with subordinates; suggests methods of approach and advises on policies, tactics, and techniques; reviews case preparation prior to court appearances; evaluates performance of staff; provides close supervision and training to new attorneys; and confers with judges, probation officers, social workers, and prosecuting attorneys, regarding court cases and policy.

Deputy Public Defender V: All of the duties mentioned above including: provides general supervision to a legal division and directs the work of several senior deputies; gives final approval to issuance of motions or writs; assigns cases for trial or other court hearings and authorizes dispositions of cases; advises and recommends development and implementation of policies for the department; when so requested, represents the Public Defender before civic groups regarding functions of the Public Defender's Office.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General;

Classification Level: IV = Deputy Public Defender IV

V = Deputy Public Defender V

Knowledge of:

IV V

G	T	General Management System (GMS) in principle and in practice.
T	T	Rules of evidence and the conduct of court proceedings.
T	T	Criminal law and procedures in California.
T	T	The duties, powers, limitations, and responsibilities of the Public Defender.
T	T	Constitutional law and criminal or juvenile dependency law.
T	T	Superior Court policies and procedures.
G	G	Federal criminal case and statutory law.
G	G	Administrative Code of San Diego.
G	G	Supervisory techniques.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following skills and abilities apply to both classes:

- Analyze legal problems and apply legal principles and practices.
- Perform legal research.
- Present statements of facts, law, and arguments clearly and logically, in written and oral form.
- Prepare and organize cases.
- Advocate criminal cases in jury trials.
- Work cooperatively with others.
- Try difficult criminal cases.
- Advocate on the behalf of children in dependency matters.
- Interpret and explain policies and laws to both professional and lay people.
- Supervise the work of a group of attorneys and support staff.
- Present and convincingly argue points of law in support of the defendant's case before courts and juries.

Deputy Public Defender V (in addition to the above):

- Administer the work of a group of attorneys support staff.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and/or experience, which demonstrate possession of the knowledge and skills stated above.
Examples of such education/experience are:

Deputy Public Defender IV:

1. Two (2) years of experience as a Deputy Public Defender III in the County of San Diego Public Defender's Office; OR,
2. Two (2) years of experience as an attorney equivalent to a Deputy Public Defender IV in the County of San Diego; OR,

3. Five (5) years of experience as an attorney handling serious felony cases, juvenile dependency cases, and jury trials as the defense attorney of record.

Deputy Public Defender V:

1. Two (2) or more years of experience as Deputy Public Defender IV in the County of San Diego Public Defender's Office; OR,
2. Two (2) years of experience as an attorney equivalent to a Deputy Public Defender V in the County of San Diego; OR,
3. Five (5) years experience handling serious felony cases, juvenile dependency cases, and jury trials as the defense attorney of record, with at least one (1) year of experience supervising other felony attorneys in a public or quasi-public criminal law agency.

Note: Positions in the Public Defender's Office require qualifying experience to be in either the criminal or dependency area. Experience in the two areas may **NOT** be combined to fulfill the minimum experience requirement.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

California Bar Association:

Active membership in good standing with the State Bar of California.

Probationary Period:

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).